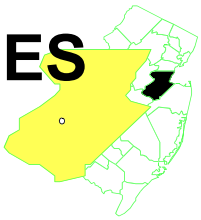
FRIED INDUSTRIES

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD041828906



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 12
Middlesex County
East Brunswick Township

Site Description

During the twenty five years Fried Industries operated at this location, the company manufactured floor finishing products, aqueous detergent solutions, adhesives, and algaecides on this site in East Brunswick Township in Middlesex County. Fried Industries also produced chemical products from components such as toluene and 1,1,1-trichloroethane. At times, site facilities were leased to other companies for the manufacture of automotive antifreeze products. The site property occupies 26 acres and contains a pond, a marsh area, and several separate wetlands areas. A building complex also existed at the site prior to its demolition. The site is located in the northwest corner of East Brunswick Township on the border with the Borough of Milltown. The site was once the location of a sand and clay quarry. In 1983, EPA found that hazardous wastes were improperly stored on site, and that the soil was contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and arsenic. Further examination of the site through 1984 revealed deteriorated buried drums as well as evidence of improper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. Conditions at the site resulted in contamination of the soil and ground water, with seepage into the ground, threatening the underlying Farrington Sand aquifer. About 7,000 people live in the adjacent Borough of Milltown; approximately 43,000 people live in the Township of East Brunswick.

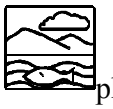
Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and municipal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/01/84
Final Date: 06/01/86

Threats and Contaminants

The ground water is contaminated with a number of VOCs, including benzene, toluene, xylenes, and vinyl chloride. The soil was contaminated with VOCs and some heavy metals, in particular, arsenic. People were at risk from direct contact with contaminated soil. They are also at risk of accidental ingestion of contaminated ground water. Prior to their removal, a large number of drums and chemical containers were found in and around the building complex.

Cleanup Approach



This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on final cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1985, EPA pumped approximately 7,000 gallons of process and septic wastes from underground tanks and transported the wastes off-site for treatment and disposal. The Township of East Brunswick provided hookups to the public water supply for homes still using residential wells as their source of potable water. Of particular importance was the immediate action taken by EPA in 1989 to install a security fence around the building complex and to begin the removal of drums and laboratory bottles/containers from the site; EPA completed this work in February 1992. The removal of hazardous liquids, the providing of public water, and securing the site, greatly reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous substances at the Fried Industries site until remedial activities are completed.

Entire Site: After completing a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA selected a remedy in a Record of Decision which was signed in June 1994. The remedy includes excavation and off-site treatment and disposal of arsenic-contaminated surface soil, demolition of the building complex, and extraction and chemical precipitation/activated carbon treatment of organics-contaminated ground water, followed by discharge to surface water. Design and implementation of the remedy is expected to be accomplished in three stages. The design for the demolition of the building complex was completed in October 1996, and the work was completed in February 1998. The design for the soils remedy was completed in May 1997, and the soils remediation work was completed at the end of June 1999. Contractor trucks began removing contaminated soil, drums, and miscellaneous debris from the Site in mid-January 1999. The soils remedy was conducted in conjunction with a removal action resulting in the removal of more than 600 buried drums, pails, and containers, approximately 12,200 tons of soil and debris, 1,250 tons of concrete, and nearly 600,000 gallons of ground water. The soil remediation/removal revealed a much greater volume of soils that needed to be excavated, as well as a large volume of contaminated ground water. Therefore, it was decided that a ground-water design based on the pre-excavation data would be flawed, and the ground-water design was placed on hold pending completion of the soil activities. Once the soil remediation/removal activities were completed, and sufficient time was allowed for the ground-water to achieve near equilibrium conditions, it was decided to install

additional wells and obtain additional ground-water monitoring data to provide a more reliable data baseline for ground-water design purposes. Ground-water monitoring activities began in the late Fall of 2001. The first round of monitoring data has been obtained. After this first round of data is validated and evaluated, work including the drilling of additional monitoring wells can commence based on the findings of the first round of data. Based on the two rounds of data, EPA will develop a ground-water cleanup strategy, if necessary.

Enforcement Status

In 1984, EPA informed the site owner that EPA would conduct an investigation to determine the nature and extent of site contamination. Based on a Consent Decree signed by the owner, all manufacturing and production operations were ended by late 1985. The site owner was also asked to leave the site premises, and did so in 1989. Several potentially responsible party (PRP) searches were conducted for this site and no viable PRPs were identified.

Cleanup Progress

(Threat Mitigated by Physical Cleanup Work)

In the mid-1980s, the Township placed nearby residences still using private wells as their source of potable water onto public water supplies. This action eliminated much of the potential threat from contaminated ground water. Beginning in 1989, EPA installed a security fence and removed approximately 1400 above ground drums and 4000 laboratory bottles/containers from the site; EPA completed this work in February 1992. This removal action eliminated the immediate danger caused by volatile and corrosive substances found in these containers. The completed demolition of the building complex has eliminated the physical danger to trespassers caused by the deteriorated state of the main building and surrounding structures, as well as removing the potential health hazards resulting from the presence of asbestos in the building. The soils remedy, conducted in conjunction with a removal action, has resulted in the removal of more than 600 buried drums, pails, and containers, approximately 12,200 tons of soil and debris, 1,250 tons of concrete, and nearly 600,000 gallons of contaminated ground-water. Completion of these soils activities has resulted in the elimination of the primary sources of contamination at the Fried Industries site, as well as removing potential hazards caused by soil contaminated by these sources.

Site Repository

East Brunswick Library, Jean Walling Civic Center, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-0218